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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/27/2017 TAGS: <u>KJUS SA AF IBRD CH</u>

SUBJECT: CHINA: DEMARCHE RESPONSE TO ROME RULE OF LAW

CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 87370

Classified By: Classified by Political External Unit Chief Mark Tesone. Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

(C) China attaches great importance to the July 2-3 Rome Rule of Law Conference on Afghanistan, stated MFA International Organizations officer Song Jia in response to reftel points. During a June 27 meeting, Song said that Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi has designated China's Ambassador to Italy Dong Jinyi as his special representative to attend the conference. Ambassador Dong will be supported by a MFA delegation composed of officers from the International Organizations Department and the Asian Affairs Department. Song stated that Beijing will closely review the United States' position on the Rome Conference. RANDT